

CLAIMS

1. A device for absorbing fluid leaked from a machined assembly, comprising:

an absorbent material that absorbs fluid leaked from the machined assembly; and
a mounting strip attached to a first part of the absorbent material, the mounting strip being removably attachable to an exterior portion of the machined assembly to position a second part of the absorbent material at a location where fluid leaked from the machined assembly is absorbed by the absorbent material.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the mounting strip includes holes configured to receive a threaded screw or bolt to attach the absorbent material to the machined assembly.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the mounting strip includes a magnetic surface to attach the absorbent material to the machined assembly.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein the mounting strip includes interlocking fabric hooks and loops to attach the absorbent material to the machined assembly.

5. The device of claim 1 wherein the location on the machined assembly is proximate to a joint between parts of the machined assembly.

6. The device of claim 5 wherein the machined assembly is selected from the group consisting of an engine and an automotive vehicle, and where the joint includes a gasket or seal between parts of the machined assembly.

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7. The device of claim 6 wherein the gasket or seal is for a part selected from the group consisting of an oil pan, a valve cover, a transmission pan, a differential housing, a rocker-arm cover, an oil filter, and a bearing seal.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein the gasket or seal is for an oil pan.

9. The device of claim 7 wherein the gasket or seal is for a transmission pan.

10. The device of claim 7 wherein the mounting strip includes holes configured to receive a threaded screw or bolt for attachment of the part to the engine or automotive vehicle.

11. The device of claim 7 wherein the mounting strip includes a magnetic surface for attachment to the part to the engine or automotive vehicle.

12. The device of claim 7 wherein the mounting strip includes interlocking fabric hooks and loops for attachment of the part to the engine or automotive vehicle.

13. The device of claim 7 wherein the absorbent material is located at a lower portion of the engine to absorb fluid that flows down the sides of the engine toward the lower portion of the engine.

14. The device of claim 1 wherein the machined assembly includes a part of a cooling system for an engine and the fluid is a cooling fluid.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the part of the cooling system is selected from the group consisting of a radiator and a water pump and wherein the device is removably attached beneath the part.

16. A device for absorbing fluid leaked from a machined assembly, comprising:

an absorbent material that absorbs fluid leaked from the machined assembly;

a first mounting strip attached to a first part of the absorbent material,

a second mounting strip configured to be attached to an exterior portion of the machined assembly, and

the first mounting strip being removably attachable to the second mounting strip so that when the first mounting strip is attached to the second mounting strip, a second part of the absorbent material is positioned at a location where fluid leaked from the machined assembly is absorbed by the absorbent material.

17. The device of claim 16 wherein the first mounting strip has a first surface that attaches to a second surface present on the second mounting strip, and the second mounting strip has a third surface that attaches to the exterior portion of the machined assembly.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein first and second surfaces are comprised of interlocking fabric hooks and loops.

19. The device of claim 17 wherein first and second surfaces are comprised of a detachably adhesive material.

20. The device of claim 17 wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of magnetically attracted materials.

21. The device of claim 17 wherein the second mounting strip includes holes configured to receive a threaded screw or bolt to attach the second mounting strip to the machined assembly and wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of interlocking fabric hooks and loops, detachably adhesive materials, and magnetically attracted materials.

22. The device of claim 17 wherein the third surface is comprised of a magnetic material and wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of interlocking fabric hooks and loops, detachably adhesive materials, and magnetically attracted materials.

23. The device of claim 17 wherein the third surface is comprised of an adhesive material and wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of interlocking fabric hooks and loops, detachably adhesive materials, and magnetically attracted materials.

24. The device of claim 17 wherein the second part of the absorbent material is positioned proximate to a joint between parts of the machined assembly when the first mounting strip is attached to the second mounting strip and the second mounting strip is attached to the machined assembly.

25. The device of claim 24 wherein the machined assembly is selected from the group consisting of an engine and an automotive vehicle, and where the joint includes a gasket or seal between parts of the machined assembly.

26. The device of claim 24 wherein the gasket or seal is for a part selected from the group consisting of an oil pan, a valve cover, a transmission pan, a differential housing, a rocker-arm cover, and a bearing seal.

27. The device of claim 26 wherein the gasket or seal is for an oil pan.

28. The device of claim 26 wherein the gasket or seal is for a transmission pan.

29. The device of claim 26 wherein first and second surfaces are comprised of interlocking fabric hooks and loops.

30. The device of claim 26 wherein first and second surfaces are comprised of a detachably adhesive material.

31. The device of claim 26 wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of magnetically attracted materials.

32. The device of claim 26 wherein the second mounting strip includes holes configured to receive a threaded screw or bolt to attach the second mounting strip to the machined assembly and wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of interlocking fabric hooks and loops, detachably adhesive materials, and magnetically attracted materials.

33. The device of claim 26 wherein the third surface is comprised of a magnetic material and wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of interlocking fabric hooks and loops, detachably adhesive materials, and magnetically attracted materials.

34. The device of claim 26 wherein the third surface is comprised of an adhesive material and wherein the first and second surfaces are comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of interlocking fabric hooks and loops, detachably adhesive materials, and magnetically attracted materials.

35. The device of claim 26 wherein the absorbent material is located at a lower portion of an engine to absorb fluid that flows down the sides of the engine toward the lower portion of the engine.

36. The device of claim 25 wherein the machined assembly includes a part of a cooling system for an engine and the fluid is a cooling fluid.

37. The device of claim 36 wherein the part of the cooling system is selected from the group consisting of a radiator and a water pump and wherein the device is removably attached beneath the part.

38. The device of claim 26 wherein the absorbent material is rolled or folded to form an interior space enveloped by the roll or fold of material.

39. The device of claim 38 wherein the interior space is filled with a fluid absorbing material.

40. The device of claim 39 wherein the fluid absorbing material is the same as the absorbent material in the roll or fold of material.

41. The device of claim 26 wherein the absorbent material is shaped to fit beneath the flange of an oil pan or transmission pan of an internal combustion engine.

42. The device of claim 41 wherein the absorbent material has a recessed dimension that forms a space between the absorbent material and an external part of the vehicle to permit the device to be attached to the oil pan or transmission pan without contacting the external part of the vehicle.

43. The device of claim 42 wherein the recessed dimension is sized to prevent combustive heat from being transferred from the external part to the absorbent material.

44. The device of claim 41 wherein the device has a length and a width, the length being sized to fit around the oil pan or transmission pan of a selected vehicle.

45. The device of claim 41 wherein the device has an inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface being contoured to accommodate the shape of the flange of the oil pan or transmission pan.

46. A kit comprising the device of claim 41 and instructions for mounting the device.

47. The kit of claim 46 wherein the device is dimensioned to fit a selected vehicle.

48. The kit of claim 46 wherein the device is dimensioned so that it can be cut to accommodate dimensions for a plurality of oil pans or transmission pans.

49. A device for absorbing oil or transmission fluid leaked from an oil pan or transmission pan, comprising:

an absorbent material that absorbs the oil or transmission fluid leaked from the oil pan or transmission pan;

a first mounting strip attached to a first part of the absorbent material and, the first mounting strip having a first surface comprised of interlocking fabric hooks and loops;

a second mounting strip having a second surface comprised of interlocking fabric hooks and loops and a third surface that configured to attach to an oil pan or transmission pan, and

the first surface of the first mounting strip being removably attachable to the second surface of the second mounting strip so that when the second mounting strip is attached to the oil pan or transmission pan and the first mounting strip is attached to the second mounting strip, a second part of the absorbent material is positioned beneath a gasket of the oil pan to absorb the oil or transmission fluid leaked from the automotive component.

51. A method of absorbing fluid that leaks from a machine assembly comprising: attaching the device of claim 16 to a machine assembly.

52. A method of absorbing fluid that leaks from a machine assembly comprising: attaching the device of claim 49 to the transmission pan or oil pan.